

Food service training certification
(HB 1044 by Criss/Brooks)

DIGEST: HB 1044 would have required the Texas Department of Health to establish minimum training and testing standards for recertification of persons employed in the food service industry. A local health jurisdiction would have to accept as sufficient to meet its training and testing standards any training course accredited by the Texas Department of Health and listed with the department's registry of such courses.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

This bill would require a local health authority that trains food service workers to accept any training course accredited by the Texas Department of Health as sufficient to fulfill the local authority's requirements. It would eliminate a municipality's prerogative to establish more stringent standards than those approved by the state. The state should not interfere with local matters of this nature.

RESPONSE: Rep. Lloyd Criss, the author of HB 1044, said the whole point of the bill was to eliminate the extra cost to local businesses of recertifying food service workers. It would also have saved workers the cost of getting recertified when they move from one part of the state to another. He said only Houston had complained about the bill.

Sen. Chet Brooks, the Senate sponsor of the bill, added that in Houston, the only city refusing to accept certification from other accredited programs, managers must take the city's course even if they have years of experience and certification from another location. "This makes it hard on restaurants bringing experienced restaurant managers into the city," he said.

NOTES: The House Research Organization analysis of HB 1044 appeared in the April 26, 1989 Daily Floor Report.